

IFOAM EU GROUP

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements - EU Regional Group

STATUTES

Proposal for GA 2006

Deleted: Approved - February 2003

1. CONSTITUTION

1.1 The European Union Regional Group (hereinafter called the EU Group) of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (hereinafter called IFOAM) has been formed by the IFOAM affiliates (members, associates and supporters) in all European Union, European Free Trade Area and Accession countries (hereinafter called EU Countries).

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1.2 The EU Group is a non-profit organisation registered in Sweden and operates within the structure of IFOAM.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 To promote the diffusion of knowledge, principles and practices of organic agriculture and production as set out in the IFOAM Principles and Basic Standards across language and cultural barriers, primarily within the EU, both among IFOAM EU affiliates, and to public authorities and the general public.

2.2 To assist in the coordination of, and where appropriate to represent, IFOAM affiliates in EU Countries within the EU and elsewhere at all levels.

2.3 Where appropriate, to coordinate and represent IFOAM affiliates in EU Countries, within IFOAM and elsewhere.

2.4 To enable the exchange of information on organic agriculture and production in and between EU Countries and with other bodies elsewhere.

2.5 To assist in the coordination of research in organic production throughout the EU.

2.6 To work towards the establishment of common policies within the EU Group in relation to all the above.

2.7 To manage the affairs of the EU Group consistent with the rules of IFOAM.

3. PARTICIPATION

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3.1 Participation in the EU Group is open to all IFOAM affiliates in EU Countries (hereinafter called EU Affiliates) as of right. If an IFOAM affiliate wishes to withdraw their participation in the EU Group, they may do so.

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3.2 Participation in the EU Group as observers is open to all IFOAM affiliates in other European countries (hereinafter called Observers).

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3.3 Only IFOAM voting members (in accordance with the IFOAM Statutes) in EU Countries have voting rights (hereinafter called EU Members).

4. ORGANS

4.1 The organs of the EU Group are the EU Group General Assembly, the National Assemblies of EU Affiliates in a country, and the EU Group Board.

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Deleted: (hereafter called the National Assemblies and National Members, respectively)

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5. EU GROUP GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5.1 An EU Group General Assembly is held at least every three years and is called by the EU Group Board with at least three months notice to all EU Affiliates.

5.2 The EU Group General Assembly reviews and decides on the general policy of the EU Group, including financial matters, it may modify the Statutes and it may dismiss the EU Group Board.

5.3 Any EU Member may submit motions to the EU Group General Assembly. Motions must be submitted to the EU Group Board with at least two months notice. The Board must circulate these with at least one month notice. Motions are debated (and amended) following the relevant procedures laid done in the Rules of Procedure for the IFOAM General Assembly.

5.4 Each EU Member has one vote. Voting is by simple majority and the quorum is one fifth of the current EU Members and must come from at least two thirds of the EU Countries.

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5.5 Voting is open, or by secret ballot if so requested by at least three EU Members. Written proxies are permitted, but restricted to a total of five votes per person.

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5.6 Representatives of EU Members must prove that they are authorised to vote on behalf of the EU Member and that the EU Member has paid all necessary membership fees.

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5.7 A minimum of ten EU Members coming from at least three EU Countries may together call an Extraordinary General Assembly, for which written notice, including the purpose of the meeting, must be circulated to all EU Affiliates by the callers at least three months in advance.

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5.8 An Extraordinary General Assembly has the same powers as an ordinary General Assembly as stated in 5.2.

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5.9 Non-voting EU Affiliates and Observers from other European countries are entitled to attend and speak, but not vote, at a General Assembly.

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6. NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES

6.1 The National Assemblies are held one in each country at least every three years and prior to the EU Group General Assembly.

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6.2 At the National Assembly, the members, elect one EU Group Board member and one Substitute and agree on procedures, policies, reporting, funding and other matters of relevance to the support of and communication with that EU Group Board member.

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6.3 The members may organise the National Assembly in their country according to procedures that are agreed between them.

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6.4 All members are entitled to attend and vote at the National Assembly in their country. Voting is by simple majority and the quorum shall be one fifth of the current members. The members may decide to give voting rights in the National Assembly to all affiliates in their country, in which case the quorum shall be one fifth of the current affiliates.

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6.5 Voting is open, or by secret ballot if so requested.

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6.6 A minimum of one fifth of the members in a country may together call an Extraordinary National Assembly, for which written notice, including the purpose of the meeting, must be circulated to all affiliates in the country by the callers at least two months in advance.

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6.7 An Extraordinary National Assembly has the same powers as an ordinary National Assembly as stated in 6.2.

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6.8 The first National Assembly in each country shall elect one EU Board member and one Substitute, and shall vote on the adoption of these Statutes.

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7. EU GROUP BOARD

7.1 The EU Group Board consists of one board member from each EU country, elected by the National Assemblies in each country.

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7.2 The EU Group Board directs the affairs of the EU Group in accordance with the Objectives and as further elaborated by the EU Group General Assembly. Board members also represent their country's affiliates in the activities of the EU Group and serve as the channel of communication between the EU Group and the affiliates in their country.

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7.3 Observers may elect an EU Group Board observer for their country according to the same procedures as in 6. above. Board observers may attend and speak, but not vote, at EU Group Board meetings.

7.4 At the first meeting of the EU Group Board after its confirmation, the Board shall elect from amongst its members a President and a Treasurer.

7.5 Substitutes may attend EU Group Board meetings and, in the absence of the Board member for whom they are a Substitute, may vote in their place.

7.6 The EU Group Board votes either by simple majority or by two thirds majority, depending on the direction of the General Assembly. The quorum is 12.

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7.7 On the request of four Board members, a meeting of the EU Group Board may be called with six weeks notice.

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7.8 The EU Group Board may appoint an Executive Board and specialist committees and determine their powers as it considers appropriate.

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7.9 The EU Group Board may appoint a secretariat to manage the affairs of the EU Group under its direction.

7.10 The EU Group Board may pay individuals for specific work which it has directed to be undertaken in furtherance of the Objectives, but payment may not be made for goods or services which do not further the Objectives.

7.11 The EU Group Board members may be paid expenses.

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8. FINANCES

8.1 Finances may be raised and controlled in a manner considered appropriate by the EU Group General Assembly.

8.2 The EU Group Board draws up a financial report for each year which is submitted to the next EU Group General Assembly for approval, and National Assemblies for information.

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8.3 The EU Group Board draws up an outline budget for the succeeding years which is submitted to the EU Group General Assembly for approval.

8.4 The accounts will be subject to internal audit every calendar year and to external audit in conjunction with the EU Group General Assembly for the calendar years since the last EU Group General Assembly.

9. STATUTORY PURPOSES

9.1 These Statutes and all other governing rules, bylaws, standards and/or other management policies of the EU Group shall at all times meet the minimum requirements as mandated by the IFOAM Statutes.

9.2 The EU Group Statutes may only be changed by majority vote of the EU Group General Assembly, after written notice has been sent out to all EU Members no less than two months before the General Assembly.

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9.3 The EU Group's official language is English.

9.4 Dissolution of the IFOAM EU Group can only take place at an ordinary EU Group General Assembly with a majority of 2/3 of the members represented at the General Assembly.

9.5 Upon winding up, the EU Group's assets shall be passed to IFOAM.